

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02070 301343Z

73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0539

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, CH, FI

SUBJECT: PRC SHIPPING AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND

REF: STATE 239319

1. KROGIUS OF MFA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT TOLD US SHIPPING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FINLAND AND PRC WAS INITIALED IN PEKING IN NOVEMBER 1975, TO BE SIGNED LATER IN HELSINKI IN CONNECTION WITH A VISIT TO FINLAND BY PRC MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIPPING. VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN SCHEDULED, AND SIGNATURE UNLIKELY UNTIL 1977.

2. LEGAL DEPARTMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE A COPY OF TEXT OF THE JOINT SHIPPING AGREEMENT UNTIL SIGNED, AND WE DID NOT PRESS REQUEST. KROGIUS SAID TEXT FOLLOWS VERY CLOSELY THOSE SIGNED EARLIER BY PRC WITH SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS, AMONG OTHERS, WITH "ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF A FEW WORDS." HE STATED THAT RICHARD BANK (EB/TCA/MA) HAS A VERY GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CONTENTS.

3. KROGIUS SAID SIGNIFICANCE OF SHIPPING AGREEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE VERY SMALL, SINCE NAVIGATION BETWEEN
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02070 301343Z

THE TWO COUNTRIES IS PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT. HOWEVER,

THERE ARE CERTAIN TAX CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED WHICH ARE
IMPORTANT TO THOSE SHIPOWNERS WITH REGULAR OR FREQUENT
SHIPPING CONNECTIONS WITH PRC. AN INTERNAL PRC TAX THAT
IS NOT LEVIED ON SHIP OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH PRC HAS
CONCLUDED SUCH AGREEMENTS WILL NO LONGER BE APPLIED TO
FINNISH SHIPS ONCE AGREEMENT SIGNED. FINLAND HAS NEVER
IMPOSED A SIMILAR TAX ON FOREIGN VESSELS.
VOTH

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